

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01725 01 OF 02 032005Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSF-01 COME-00 L-03 INT-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 PM-04  
/033 W

-----032039Z 008732 /42

R 031900Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3681

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 1725

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CCLR, TGEN, CI, AR

SUBJ: R/V HERO CLEARANCE REQUEST, MAY-JULY 1977

1. SUMMARY: RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARANCES FOR FOREIGN SHIPS, INCLUDING RESEARCH VESSELS, OPERATING IN CHILEAN WATERS, LIES WITH THE NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. WITHDRAWAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR HERO CRUISE 76-5 OCCURRED BECAUSE THE CRUISE TRACK DID NOT SPECIFY ENTRY INTO RESTRICTED CANALS. FUTURE CLEARANCE FOR ENTRY INTO RESTRICTED CANALS IN THE PATAGONION ANDRES REGION WILL DEPEND ON CHILEAN NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THESE CANALS AND THE QUALITY OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS IN THE AREA IN QUESTION. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PAST DELAYS IN THE PROCESSING OF CLEARANCES. HERO CRUISES 77-3 AND 77-4 ARE PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED AND INFORMAL RULINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE WITHIN A WEEK. FUTURE RESEARCH IN THE RESTRICTED CANALS WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON CHILEAN NAVAL PRIORITIES IN THESE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE (GOC) NEVER CLARIFIED THEIR POLICY ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE RESTRICTED

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01725 01 OF 02 032005Z

CANALS IN THE AREA OF THE PATAGONIAN ANDES, EMBASSY CONTACTED THE CHILEAN NAVAL HYDROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE IN VALPARAISO IN ANOTHER EFFORT AT CLARIFICATION. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEARANCES FOR RESEARCH SHIPS WORKING IN THESE CANALS LIES WITH THE INSTITUTE RATHER THAN THE OFFICE OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AS REPORTED IN REF B. INSTITUTE SPOKESMEN REITERATED THAT APPROVAL FOR HERO CRUISE

76-5 WAS WITHDRAWN BECAUSE THE CRUISE TRACK ON WHICH THE APPROVAL WAS BASED DID NOT SPECIFY ENTRY INTO RESTRICTED CANALS. EMBASSY COULD NOT COMMENT ON THIS BECAUSE OUR COPY OF THE 76-5 CRUISE TRACK IS OF SUCH POOR QUALITY AS TO BE MEANINGLESS. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT WITHDRAWAL OF PERMISSION FOR THE 76-5 CRUISE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT FUTURE RESEARCH IN THIS AREA WILL BE FORBIDDEN. WHETHER OR NOT PERMISSION IS GRANTED WILL DEPEND ON: (A) PLANNED NAVY ACTIVITY IN THESE CANALS, AND (B) THE QUALITY OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS FOR THE AREA IN QUESTION. THE CHILEAN NAVY IS QUITE ACTIVE IN THESE CANALS AND WILL NOT PERMIT ENTRY OF FOREIGN SHIPS WHILE THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE ONGOING. THE NAVY ALSO REFUSES TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN SHIPS OPERATING IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT ADEQUATELY CHARTED. NEITHER WILL THEY PERMIT FOREIGN VESSELS TO ENTER THESE AREAS AT THEIR OWN RISK. UNOFFICIAL EXPLANATIONS FROM SEVERAL GOVERNMENT SOURCES INDICATES THAT THE NAVY MAY CONSIDER THESE CANALS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE AND DO NOT WANT THEM CHARTED OR ENTERED BY FOREIGN VESSELS.

3. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS COMPLAINED THAT THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING NOTICE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS FAR ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO ARRANGE FOR GOC PARTICIPATION. HELLMUTH SIEVERS, CHIEF OF THE INSTITUTE'S DEPARTMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHY, STATED BLUNTLY THAT HE THOUGHT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN TRANSMITTING DETAILS OF PROJECTS SINCE HE SOMETIMES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 01725 01 OF 02 032005Z

RECEIVED COPIES OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS FROM U.S. SCIENTIFIC COLLEAGUES SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF EMBASSY NOTIFICATION. EMBASSY POINTED OUT THAT DIPLOMATIC NOTES WERE PREPARED REQUESTING CLEARANCES ON RESEARCH PROPOSALS WITHIN HOURS AND AT THE MOST DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION. EMBASSY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS, IN PARTICULAR, WERE BEING PREPARED VERY FAR IN ADVANCE BECAUSE FAST-BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD IN THE PATAGONIAN ANDES AND ANTARCTIC WERE RESULTING IN LAST MINUTE REVISIONS IN FINAL PROPOSALS. NAVY LIEUTENANT SERGIO ECHEVERRIA THEN POINTED OUT THAT A GENERAL OUTLINE OF

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01725 02 OF 02 032017Z

ACTION OES-06

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R 031900Z MAR 77

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3682

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 SANTIAGO 1725

PROPOSED RESEARCH WAS ALL THAT WAS NECESSARY FOR GOC PARTICIPATION. IF THE GOC COULD RECEIVE A GENERAL OUTLINE SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE PROJECT, WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR CLEARANCES, COULD BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE. THE CLEARANCE PROCESS IS, IN FACT, RATHER SHORT, SAID ECHEVERRIA.

4. THE LATTER STATEMENT PROMPTED EMBASSY TO NOTE THAT MOST CLEARANCES WERE REQUIRING MONTHS AND WERE USUALLY RECEIVED AT THE LAST MINUTE AFTER AN EMBASSY REMINDER. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS PLACED BLAME ON THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS (OSPA) STATING THAT THE INSTITUTE OFTEN DID NOT RECEIVE CLEARANCE REQUESTS UNTIL TWO MONTHS AFTER OSPA BEGAN PROCESSING THEM. IN FACT, EMBASSY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING SIMILAR FRUSTRATIONS WITH OSPA. IN RECENT MONTHS OSPA HAS LOST TWO DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND HAS SAT ON OTHERS FOR MONTHS BEFORE FORWARDING SAME, AT EMBASSY URGING, TO OTHER GOC MINISTRIES FOR ACTION. THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE TO CONTINUE WORKING THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WHILE MAKING GREATER USE OF INFORMAL CHANNELS, I.E., TELEPHONE CONTACT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND INSTITUTE, TO OVERCOME OSPA BUREAUCRATIC

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01725 02 OF 02 032017Z

DELAYS.

5. THE EXCELLENT CRUISE TRACKS FOR HERO CRUISES 77-3 AND 77-4 WERE LEFT WITH INSTITUTE OFFICIALS FOR STUDY. THE INSTITUTE PROMISED TO ADVISE THE EMBASSY WITHIN A WEEK THOSE CANALS WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE ENTERED

IN THE 1 JULY - 1 AUGUST CRUISE. IT WILL ALSO RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ENTRY INTO SENO PONSONBY WEST OF 68 DEGREES 40' IN THE 17 MAY - 17 JUNE CRUISE. INSTITUTE OFFICIALS CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THE TWO CRUISES ARE SEPARATE AND THAT THE CANCELLATION OF ONE WILL NOT PREJUDICE THE OTHER. NOR WILL REFUSAL TO GRANT ENTRY INTO CERTAIN CANALS NECESSARILY MEAN COMPLETE REJECTION OF THE 1 JULY - 1 AUGUST CRUISE.

6. THE CRUISE TRACKS AND CRUISE PLANS FOR HERO CRUISES 77-3 AND 77-4 WERE NOT HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING THE SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH METHODS TO BE USED IN THESE CRUISES. THE PERSONAL ASSISTANCE OF DR. IAN DALZIEL WAS ALSO INVALUABLE. DR. DALZIEL SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING AND ADVISED THAT A SPECIAL TRIP TO SANTIAGO TO MEET WITH INSTITUTE OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY SINCE THE FATE OF CRUISE 77-4 AND OTHER SIMILAR RESERACH PROJECTS WILL CONTINUE TO RIDE ON CHILEAN NAVAL PRIORITIES AND THE QUALITY OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS IN THE REGION OF THE CANALS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE OR ANYONE ELSE MAY SAY. WHILE CORDIAL AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVE OF DR. DALZIEL'S RESEARCH, THE CHILEAN NAVY CAN BE EXPECTED TO SERVE ITS OWN NEEDS FIRST REGARDLESS OF THE POTENTIAL LONG-RUN BENEFITS OF DR. DALZIEL'S RESEARCH. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT CRUISE 77-4 DOES NOT CONFLICT TOO MUCH WITH THE NAVY'S OWN PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN THE RESTRICTED CANALS DURING JULY 1977.  
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## Message Attributes

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